

IN THE CLAIMS:

Submitted below are the present claims with their status, including any amendments made hereby.

Claims 1-12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently amended) A multilumen proximal connector ~~multilumen proximal fitting~~ for a multilumen unilimb breathing circuit for connecting at least two flexible tubes to a multilumen proximal terminal, comprising a multilumen proximal fitting, said fitting comprising a rigid housing forming at least two independent lumens, said lumens comprising a first lumen and a second lumen each having a proximal and a distal end, wherein said fitting ~~may be operatively~~ can be directly attached to a mating, rigid multilumen proximal terminal having first and second ports at the distal end of third and fourth lumens so that, when said proximal ends of said first and second lumens of said fitting are operatively attached to said first and second ports respectively the third lumen and said first lumen both form part of a first flow path that is independent of a second flow path that is formed at least in part by said second lumen and the fourth lumen, wherein said fitting is operatively attachable to and detachable from a mating rigid multilumen proximal terminal by a user at a site of use and can be used to operatively connect a flexible multilumen patient respiratory conduit to a proximal terminal of an assisted ventilation or anesthesia machine.

14. (Previously added) The fitting of claim 13, wherein said first lumen is coaxial with said second lumen.

15. (Previously added) The fitting of claim 13, further comprising a filter in at least one of said first lumen and said second lumen.

16. (Previously added) The fitting of claim 14, further comprising at least one filter, wherein at least one of said at least one filter is positioned in at least one of said first lumen and said second lumen.

17. (Previously amended) The fitting of claim 13, wherein said first and second lumens terminate at third and fourth distal ports and fifth and sixth proximal ports, wherein said fifth and sixth proximal ports are co-axial.

18. (Currently amended) A unilimb respiratory conduit for providing inspiratory gases to a patient and receiving expiratory gases therefrom, comprising a unilimb respiratory conduit for use with a proximal terminal that has lumens defining inspiratory and expiratory flow paths that are independent of each other and converge at a distal end of the proximal terminal and diverge from each other proximally of the distal end of the proximal terminal so that the lumen defining the inspiratory flow path of the proximal terminal is independently operatively connectable to an inlet for a source of inspiratory gas while the lumen defining the expiratory flow path of the proximal terminal is independently operatively connectable to an expiratory outlet, said respiratory conduit comprising:

flexible tubing forming a first lumen and a second lumen, said first and second lumens forming independent flow paths, said respiratory conduit having a distal end and a proximal end, wherein said distal end of said respiratory conduit is operatively connectable to and detachable from a patient by a user at a site of use, and said proximal end of said conduit is operatively connectable to and detachable from a proximal terminal by a user at a site of use,

wherein when said conduit is operatively connected to a proximal terminal, said first lumen is in fluid communication with the inspiratory flow path and said second lumen is in fluid communication with the expiratory flow path, wherein said first lumen is operatively connectable to an inlet for a source of inspiratory gas via the proximal terminal while said second lumen is operatively connectable to an expiratory outlet via the proximal terminal, wherein said respiratory conduit is operatively attachable to and detachable from a proximal terminal after use therewith for independent disposal or sterilization by a user at the site of use.

19. (Previously amended) A respiratory conduit interface device capable of operatively coupling the unilimb, multilumen flexible respiratory conduit of claim 18 to an anesthesia machine or respirator type device, comprising a rigid housing having first and second lumens defining respectively first and second flow paths therein, said first and second lumens being independent of each other and each having a distal end and a proximal end, said distal ends of said independent lumens converging at a distal end of said housing so as to be capable of simultaneous operative connection to a unilimb flexible respiratory conduit, and wherein said first and second flow paths in said housing diverge from each other proximally of said distal end of said housing so that said proximal end of said first lumen is independently operatively connectable to an inlet for a source of inspiratory gas while said proximal end of said second lumen is independently operatively connectable to an expiratory outlet, wherein a unilimb flexible respiratory conduit is operatively attachable to said housing for use and detachable therefrom after use for independent disposal or sterilization.

20. (Previously added) The interface device of claim 19, wherein said interface device is permanently connected to an anesthesia machine or to a respirator type device, wherein a respiratory conduit is operatively detachable from said anesthesia machine or respirator type device after use therewith for disposal or sterilization.

21. (Previously added) The multilumen proximal fitting of claim 13, further comprising an interface device, wherein said fitting can be operatively attached to and detached from said interface device by a user at a site of use, said interface device comprising a rigid housing having third and fourth lumens defining respectively third and fourth flow paths therein, said third and fourth lumens being independent of each other and each having a distal end and a proximal end, said distal ends of said independent lumens converging at a distal end of said housing so as to be capable of simultaneous operative connection to a unilimb flexible respiratory conduit, and wherein said third and fourth flow paths in said housing diverge from each other proximally of said distal end of said housing so that said proximal end of said third lumen is independently operatively

connectable to an inlet for a source of inspiratory gas while said proximal end of said fourth lumen is independently operatively connectable to an expiratory outlet, wherein a unilimb flexible respiratory conduit is operatively attachable to said housing for use and detachable therefrom after use for independent disposal or sterilization via said proximal fitting.

22. (new) The proximal connector of claim 13, further comprising a flexible multilumen patient respiratory conduit connected to said fitting, wherein a fifth and a sixth lumen are within said flexible respiratory conduit, and at least a portion of said fifth lumen continues said first flow path and at least a portion of said sixth lumen continues said second flow path, wherein said first flow path and second flow path are independent for at least a portion of the length of said flexible respiratory conduit.
